

Local Law No. 2 of the year 2026

Section 1: Title

A Local Law regulating the outdoor restraint of dogs for the Town of Schuyler Falls, New York

Section 2: As authorized by the New York Agriculture and Markets Law Section 122

Section 3: Purpose By adoption of this law the Town of Schuyler Falls declares its intent to regulate and control the outdoor confinement of dogs restrained or kept on property located within the town. The Town of Schuyler Falls finds that it is in the best interest of its residents as well as their dogs to ensure the safety of all by regulating the manner in which a dog may be restrained or confined outdoors.

Section 4: Definitions

- A. “Confinement” means to restrict and or seclude a dog’s movement. If a dog can enter and exit the enclosure as it pleases, it is not considered confined.
- B. “Harbor” means to provide food, water, shelter, care, or be responsible for any dog.
- C. “Owner” shall mean any person who harbors or keeps any dog. In the event any dog involved in this local law shall be owned by a person under eighteen years of age, the owner shall be deemed to be the parent or guardian of such person (or the head of household in which said person resides). This shall also include any agent, representative or person responsible for the care and welfare of any dog.
- D. “Tether” shall mean to restrain a dog by attaching the dog to any stationary object or structure including without limitation a: house, tree, fence post, garage or shed. Without limitation a: chain, rope, cord, leash or running line. Tethering does not include the use of a leash to walk a dog.
- E. “Weather Alert” shall mean any National Weather Service warning for heat advisory, frigid weather, ice storms, tornado, or tropical storms.

Section 5: Tethering Prohibitions:

It shall be unlawful for any person, owner, agent, or responsible person; to tether, leash, fasten, secure, restrain, chain, confine or tie a dog to any stationary object outdoors or cause such dog to be confined in a manner that:

1. Endangers such dog’s health, safety, and wellbeing;
2. Dogs shall be tethered to such system by means of a harness or collar made of nylon, leather, durable non-metallic material and must be fitted so as not to embed itself in the animal’s neck.
3. Unreasonably limits the movement of such dog because it is too short for the dog to move around, have a dry area for the dog to lie down or for the dog to urinate or defecate in a separate area from the area in which it must eat, drink, or lie down.
4. If there are multiple dogs, each must be tethered separately.

5. A dog shall not be tethered in any of the following circumstances: under six months of age, a female in heat, any health condition that would be exacerbated by tethering, injury, in distress, or in the advanced stages of pregnancy.
6. A dog must have unencumbered access to: shade, food, clean, fresh, potable water, shelter from the elements without becoming entangled.
7. A dog shall not be tethered outside in weather below 32 degrees without a warm shelter for them to enter or in weather above 90 degrees without a shaded area to allow them to cool off.

Section 6: Specifications for Tethering Restraints and Enclosures

1. The length of a stationary tether shall not be less than ten feet or five times the length of the dog's body as measured from the tip of the nose to the base of the tail, whichever length is greater; free from tangles, and shall restrain the dog from reaching hazards that pose a strangulation risk, and/or animals.
2. Dog enclosure shall be constructed of chain link or other secure fencing material with all four sides enclosed. The enclosure shall be of sufficient height to prevent the dog from escaping such enclosure.
3. An enclosure in which a dog is contained must allow the dog to move around or for the dog to urinate or defecate in a separate area from the area in which it must: eat, drink, or lie down. The area must allow the dog a dry space to lie down in case of a puddling.

Section 7: Dog Enclosure and Tethering Prohibitions

- A) A dog may not be tethered or confined to a dog enclosure during a weather alert, as stated in paragraph E, or when there is an adverse risk to the health or safety of a dog based on breed, age, or physical condition.
- B) A tethered dog or dog confined to an enclosure, must have access to adequate food, and must have access to clean, fresh, potable water and continuous access to shelter at all times, and in addition, as set forth in Section 353 of the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law.
- C) A tethered dog, or dog confined to an enclosure must have access to appropriate shelter that will allow the dog to remain dry and to be protected from the elements. In addition to complying with the requirements of 353-B of NYS Agriculture and Markets Law, the shelter shall be fully enclosed on all sides except one, which side shall have an opening.
- D) In addition to the above requirements, all tethered dogs, or those confined to an enclosure must be free from cruel conditions or inhumane conditions at any time. For purposes of this section cruel or inhumane conditions shall include the following:
 1. Exposing a dog to taunting, prodding, provoking, hitting, harassing, threatening, or otherwise harming a tethered dog.
 2. Exposing a dog to dangerous conditions, such as exposure to animal waste, garbage, noxious odors, or objects that could kill or injure a dog.

Section 8: Exceptions

1. A dog tethered in compliance with the requirements of a campground area shall be exempt from these regulations.
2. Tethering of a dog for less than fifteen minutes in a public location shall be exempt from this local law.

Section 9: Enforcement/Penalties for Offenses

- A. This article shall be enforced by the local dog or animal control officer, the Clinton County Sheriff's Department, and may also be enforced by any Constable, Police Officer, or any agent or officer of any incorporated society for the prevention of cruelty to animals with jurisdiction within the Town of Schuylers Falls.
- B. A violation of any provisions of this law shall be subject to a civil penalty enforceable and collectable by the Town as follows:
 1. First Offense: Two Hundred Fifty dollars (\$250)
 2. Second Offense: Five Hundred dollars (\$500)
 3. Third Offense: One Thousand dollars (\$1,000) and surrender of the dog, the cost to give the dog proper shots to be entered into a shelter and the costs of investigation and prosecution.
- C. Any person may file a written complaint with an enforcement officer that a violation of this local law has taken place. The enforcement officer shall promptly record and investigate any such complaint and obtain the necessary supporting depositions. The enforcement officer shall submit the civil complaint and supporting depositions to a court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 10: Obstruction of Governmental Administration

No person shall hinder, resist, or oppose the enforcement officer or peace officer when acting pursuant to their duties under this local law or any other persons authorized to administer and enforce the provisions of this law in the performance of their duties. Any person hindering, resisting, or opposing these officers shall be prosecuted.

Section 11: Severability

In the event that any portion of this local law is found to be invalid, such findings will not have any effect on the remaining portions of this local law, the application thereof, and all other provisions shall remain in full force and legal effect.

Section 12: When Effective

This article shall be effective immediately from the date of filing with the New York State Secretary of State.